

To the committee:

I was told late last night about the possibility of the State trying to abolish pro boxing in Montana and was asked if I would write a letter. Unfortunately, I have very little time to do so on such short notice, but since I do feel as strongly as I do on boxing in Montana, I cancelled an appointment today to write something in time for your meeting.

If what I heard is accurate, I personally think abolishing pro boxing in the state of Montana is AWFUL and short sighted. Boxing has a long history in Montana and we have even had a few really good fighters come from here over time, and even more good people. There have even been world champions from the surrounding states, such as Idaho and Utah, with those athlete's returned back to their home states to help their communities. Not all reach the pro level, or make it big enough to come home, but we should always have a path available to our youth of Montana to come home and have us support them when they do.

I have spent my fair share of taxes in Helena since returning to Helena in 2006, so over the past 6-7 years here, I have paid taxes to the local community approximately \$650,000 in gambling taxes, another \$100,000+ for property taxes, and \$45,000+ in home taxes, plus another 1.25MM in payroll and even more in other taxes. In addition, my family members have spent at least 3-4 times that much locally for the same taxes in the same time period, and they also strongly support boxing and have many of the same views I have, and we are hopeful that you consider this program a worthy cause to continue supporting, as I am sure many-many other people do as well. In addition, I have also personally help support them privately through money and sponsorships since coming here. From a personal position and hope, this is the type of program that I hope some of our tax dollars are spent on, as I see life-long benefits to many.

My Step Dad (who is now dead) started off in Montana and was a boxing champion back in the 40's & 50's in Montana and Utah, and ultimately he stayed in the area and eventually started a small Montana company back in 1980 which grew to be a \$15MM a year company until it was sold about 8 years ago, but he employed some 400+ people and paid lots to the community in taxes as well over that time and he was a huge supporter of boxing in Montana, and came home to Montana to build his business. He would be rolling over in his grave if he heard what I heard last night about the state wanting to abolish pro boxing in Montana. My close friend Todd Foster was an Olympian that represented the USA, but more importantly he represented Montana and the state followed him through that time and through his pro career and he brought events back to Montana – our youth deserve that support and the avenue to come back to Montana – it cannot happen if the states abolishes that path.

The sport gives children a path that allows them to aspire to something more and know that if they excel, they have a small chance, but there is a chance, that they may have a path or livelihood in that sport from a state that supports them, versus shunning them and requiring them to move away in pursuit of their dream. On a side note, I also believe with the growth of the UFC's, at some point in time the state will want or need to regulate that sport as well and we should be moving that direction versus taking a big step back, from our history and the future.

When I moved back to the state in 2006, I supported almost every type of charity and sponsorship in town, but the one I personally searched out was the Helena Eagle boxing club and when I found them, as I believe they

help children grow and if done correctly will provide a life shaping experience. I asked about their program to decide how the kids were being taught and who coached them. At that time, the coach also had a national caliber level son that has since fought for the USA, and recently turned pro. The coach and the son have spent countless hours teaching others this sport, and now the son is trying to make a living in Montana, and is being told his dream may not be supported. That specific boxing club had a NO-fight clause with its members so they would not fight in the streets (*which helps people be taught not to be bullies, yet can protect themselves or others*), he had a minimum grade compliance standard that required good grades in school to remain in the club, and he spent countless hours teaching kids to have self-confidence and to be better kids (*which in today's world is a good thing*). The sport is a great sport to keep children off the streets and teach discipline and hard work, while teaching men & woman to have self-confidence through their efforts. The current fighters and future fighters, as well as the fans, should have a path to a career or to have a venue to watch those who have chosen this sport as their career. We should be supporting this, not considering ending it, as when we do get the long shot that makes it, we all feel better about ourselves and the state, and it becomes yet another example of how people can overcome long odds and make it in Montana, versus yet another reason to leave the state.

Again I apologize for the crudeness of the letter as I did not have much time to draft it but wanted to get something to the group as I believe that there are many that feel very-very strongly about boxing in Montana, and that the state should continue to regulate and support the sport and it's pro events, now and in the future.

I am hopeful the State will consider supporting boxing and pro events in the state of Montana. I appreciate your consideration and time to hear another point of view.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Sandrock

Chris Sandrock, Owner

**Sandrock Enterprises Inc & CAS Holdings LLC**

DBA's: Sunset Casino & 702 Club

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Helena, MT 59601

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this statement regarding the recent proposal to abolish Professional Boxing in Montana. Boxing at both the amateur and professional levels have been important sports in Montana's history. Professional Boxing may not make a lot of money now but that could change. I do not understand why every activity we support has to revolve around money. We have some good young professional boxers in Montana and we should promote and support their success.

I have lived in Montana for nearly 60 years, worked here for over 40 years coached Boxing and instructed Martial Arts for many, many years and understand the benefits these activities can provide young person. They can be life changing - many kids that take up Boxing aren't the spoiled, fussed over top athletes. Their parents aren't coaches or teachers - they are kids that are low income, high risk - kids that are overlooked, left over and often left out of the main stream sports. These kid would be on the streets they use Boxing as a productive way to channel their energy and become someone or improve self esteem.

There are many reasons why Professional Boxing should not be abolished - the biggest being that young boxers need to have incentive and goals to reach for. If there were no college - doing wee in High School wouldn't be very important, if high school sports never led to college sports, excelling in high school would not mean much - the same goes for Boxing. When I was a young amateur boxer I dreamed about boxing in front of a full house at the Civic Center in Butte or the Billings Metra. One of my most inspiring and vivid memories was watching Anaconda's Roger Rouse knock out top contender Johnny Persol from New York in Anaconda's Memorial Gym when I was 10 years old in 1964. Every amateur aspires to be their best, to go on to bigger and better things. It's our nature. Now many won't turn professional or go to that next level but they should have the opportunity to live that dream if they give it their best effort. Why take that dream away?

It makes no sense.

The government supports Gambling, legalized Marijauna and other activities that have no logic other than making money but a kid can't become a professional boxer and perform in his home state.

Now maybe the idea comes up where if a person is a good amateur he can go to another state and become a professional. It doesn't work that way - it's necessary to nurture a young professional, especially from rural states and gradually increase their level of competition. We would be throwing a young boxer to the wolves if we couldn't establish a grassroots program in our home state.

The people voting on this proposal don't see these kids come to the gym and work through blood, sweat and tears every day. Perform in Boxing matches like there was nothing more important in the world. Learn that dedication, hard work, pain and sacrifice are what make you a successful person. They don't see the native kids from Browning or Fort Belknap display the modesty, courage and pride that only Montana boxing community fully appreciates. They don't see the help and support the boxers give each other, how boxing erases color, race and social barriers. They learn we all fight a battle every day, as Victor Hugo said "Those who live are those who fight."

Please give these kids a chance to become their best and live out their dreams. Please let us in support of Professional Boxing a chance to make necessary changed than would meet the needs of those voting on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Chris Eamon

Anaconda Golden Gloves

Boxing Club

New email Reply

Delete Pro boxing Attachments Junk Sweep Move to Categories

Folders

Quick views



MT Boxing, Amy Sowers 12:59 PM  
To: dcaferro@msn.com

To whom it may concern,  
I have recently learned the the state is considering eliminating the sport of professional boxing within the state.

As a former amateur National Champion and aspiring professional champion, I would appreciate the opportunity to help to come up with a solution so we could keep the sport.

Like all the other professional boxers in Montana, I have my home, family & work here in the state. That means, for me, my only opportunity to get my start and to be successful is right here in Montana.

Please consider allowing the boxing community to work with the state to find a solution that works for everyone.

Thank you,  
Amy Sowers  
2011 National Gold medalist  
President, Montana amateur boxing LBC

406-580-6750

MT Boxir  
Amy Sov

What was up  
Kristoffessor  
Grammys?!



16 hours ago

1/27/14

My name is Timmy Mason I am currently 20 as a pro boxer with 2 knock outs. I have a very promising career ahead of me. If pro boxing is shut down in Montana, then so too are my dreams, goals & future. I ask you to please keep pro boxing in Montana.

Timmy Mason. Pro Boxer - Helena, MT

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Clint & Melissa Smith  
603 S Cedar  
Townsend, MT 59644

We recently hosted the first ever Pro Boxing Event in Townsend on 01/18/2014. We had a great turn out and 8 great boxing matches 6 amateur & 2 Pro. Our small community showed great support and enthusiasm and would like to see more!

We are great supporters of Pro Boxing remaining in Montana. Boxing is a great sport dating back to 687 BC when it was acceptance by the ancient Greeks as an Olympic game. Boxing evolved from 16th- and 18th-century prizefights, (largely in Great Britain) to the forerunner of modern boxing in the mid-19th century and later in the United States.

Instead of taking Montana off the map of Pro Boxing, the commission should be figuring out how to make it stand out on the map! I hope it can be worked out so that pro boxing remains in Montana.

Respectfully,

Clint & Melissa Smith

I would like to express my support for continued state support for professional boxing in Montana. It'd be a shame to discontinue a positive outlet and lively hood for many Montana fighters. It's not easy to begin a pro career in MT especially when your own state will not support your cause.

Thanks you,

Chris Asher  
Professional Boxer  
Bozeman, MT

I am writing this letter in regards to the professional athletic commission and the state of Montana we have many professionals that live in the state and I have been involved with many of them from the amateurs to the pros to do away with the athletic program would harm many a lot of fighters from being able to showcase their skills in front of their hometowns and crowds here in Montana many boys would like to make your debuts and other flight here in Montana so that they had their friends and family close to them I have been involved in boxing since 1975 Both as a fighter and now a coach and referee I would be willing to volunteer my time to oversee the professional boxing here in Montana when there is Profights going on and report back to the state at no charge we need to keep this sport Alive here as many of our young fighters are leaving to go to other places to train and fight I

have two sons who are both professional boxers and have been fighting in Colorado because of the expensive fees here in Montana please reconsider your decision to do away with this program and consider my offer of overseeing it for free we could also increase revenue by starting to govern MMA bout as there are a few professional MMA fighters it live in Billings and I'm sure other cities here in Montana thank you Lem Chesmore